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LETTER DATED 12 DECEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, GERMANY, SPAIN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to draw to your attention the text, in French and in English, of a declaration on the former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Union at the European Council held at Essen on 10 December 1994 (see annex).

We would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MÉRIMÉE
Permanent Representative of France

(Signed) Detlev GRAF ZU RANTZAU
Permanent Representative of Germany

(Signed) Juan A. YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO
Permanent Representative of Spain

(Signed) Sir David HANNAY, KCMG
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration on the former Yugoslavia

The European Council is alarmed by the renewed intensification of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and condemns the violation of the safe area of Bihać by the Bosnian Serb forces and of the international border by the Krajina Serb forces.

The European Council insists on an immediate cease-fire in and around the safe area of Bihać and on the withdrawal of the Bosnian Serb and the Krajina Serb forces from this area, to be followed by a cessation of hostilities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The European Council is outraged at the human suffering that has already been inflicted on the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that can only increase with the onset of another winter. It demands the immediate removal of all obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and calls on all parties to ensure that it reaches the suffering people. It is intolerable that the denial of humanitarian assistance should be used as a weapon of war.

The European Council expresses its full support for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and its commanders and the ongoing efforts to bring about a cease-fire. It calls on the parties, in particular the Bosnian Serb forces, to allow UNPROFOR freedom of movement and to enable it to continue its work without undue risk.

UNPROFOR should continue it crucial mission of providing humanitarian assistance and saving human life. If it were obliged to withdraw because of the impossibility of fulfilling its mandate, the implications for Bosnia and its civilian population would be severe.

The European Council reiterates its full support for strict enforcement of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and decisions taken in pursuance of them.

The European Council endorses the results of the ministerial meeting of 2 December at Brussels. Peace can only be brought about through a negotiated settlement. Bosnian Serbs must accept the peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina presented to the parties by the Contact Group, as the basis for a settlement that provides for a viable and reasonable solution for all parties. The European Council recalls that the territorial proposal can be adjusted by mutual agreement between the parties and that constitutional arrangements agreeable to the parties will need to be drawn up that preserve the integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and allow equitable and balanced arrangements for the Bosniac-Croat and Bosnian Serb entities.

The European Council underlines the necessity for the effective internationally verified closure of the border between the Federal Republic of

Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina and to that end attaches importance to the urgent reinforcement of the mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

The European Council calls for the early and full implementation of the economic agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Krajina Serb authorities. It urges the parties to negotiate constructively on the international plan for the United Nations Protected Areas, once finalized, and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to support this process.

The European Council stressed the necessity of early mutual recognition between all States of the former Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders. This is essential for the future stability of the region.